

# Conservation for Livelihoods

Promoting biodiversity conservation, environmental justice  
and sustainable livelihoods in Nepal

IUCN Nepal Intersessional Plan (2009–2012)



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# IUCN Nepal Intersessional Plan (2009–2012)

## 1. Introduction

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Nepal is a landlocked and mountainous country with a population of 24 million. Nepal is located along the southern slopes of the Himalayan mountain range between India and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. More than 30% of the people are below poverty line and GDP per capita of only US\$ 312 (2005)<sup>1</sup>. The overall Nepal's Human Development Index (HDI) is 0.527 in 2006. The GDP growth rate is about 2.8%<sup>2</sup> in 2005 and subsistence agriculture is the main source of livelihoods of more than 80% of the people.

After prolonged conflict, Nepal is undergoing rapid changes in its political, social and economic fronts, which will have enormous implications in human wellbeing as well as in maintaining environmental services. Natural resources, through appropriate conservation, would provide the basis for maintaining peace and livelihoods of the people. Hence, natural resource management addressing basic human needs in the national development agenda has become very important for the sustainable and equitable development of Nepal.

In order to contribute to the overarching global vision of *a just world that values and conserves nature*, IUCN has been influencing, encouraging and assisting its members and societies to maintain integrity and diversity of nature. IUCN Nepal has been assisting the Government of Nepal for policy reforms in areas of biodiversity conservation such as the National Conservation Strategy, National Environmental Policy and Action Plan I and II, Environmental Impact Assessment, National Wetlands Policy, Environmental education curricula and materials, Environmental Protection Act 1996, Environmental Protection Regulations 1997, Churia Area Programme Strategy (draft), Sacred Himal Landscape Strategic Plan, Draft Bill on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Regime, and Gender, Poverty and Social Equity (GPSE) monitoring indicators.

Fourteen IUCN members are actively engaged in diverse area of biodiversity conservation and societal development in Nepal. The major area of work of these member organizations, *inter alia*, are rural and alternative energy, species and habitat conservation (especially birds, rhinos and other wildlife and other floral species), promotion of people's livelihood through participatory biodiversity conservation, heritage protection, environmental education, advocacy and awareness, women empowerment, scientific research, natural resources management, protected area and landscape management and trans-boundary conservation issues. The strength of all members is to be harnessed in a synergic way to order to achieve the long term objective of the commission in Nepal.

The new IUCN Intersessional Plan will begin in 2009 to 2012. IUCN Nepal, as part of the global IUCN system, will contribute to the process by developing its own programme strategy for the same period.

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<sup>1</sup> IFAD Nepal Country Strategic Opportunities Program 2006

<sup>2</sup> Key Indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries 2006  
([http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key\\_Indicators/2006/pdf/NEP.pdf](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key_Indicators/2006/pdf/NEP.pdf))

In 2005, IUCN decided to organise the Asian Program into Country Clusters. Nepal became part of the country group 2, which groups Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal. The objective of the CG is to focus on the development of programs in countries where IUCN has not been present so far and strengthen its presence there, as well as to establish technical linkages between countries facing the same or similar problematic situations through cross-country learning, e.g. all countries of CG2 are mountainous countries facing similar problems, which could potentially lead to regional programs and projects. The country groups are also management constructs, aiming to more synergetic, integrated and efficient planning and delivery of the IUCN programmes in the sub region.

The objective of the Intersessional Plan is to present IUCN's longer term results (2009-2012) in the area of biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and sustainable livelihoods in Nepal.

This Intersessional Plan has covered the context, situation analysis, major challenges and emerging trends in the area of biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Nepal. The plan also presents major thematic areas, cross-cutting priorities and ecosystem focus that IUCN Nepal is going to pursue in its future conservation endeavours.

IUCN globally has identified five areas of work for the global 2009 to 2012 Intersessional Plan. These have been approved by the IUCN Council and include :

1. **Conserving biodiversity for life:** ensuring sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity from local to global levels.
2. **Changing the climate forecast:** climate change policy and practice better integrate biodiversity considerations and opportunities.
3. **Naturally energizing the future:** implementing ecologically sustainable, equitable and efficient energy systems.
4. **Improving life in healthy ecosystems:** improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and vulnerability, and enhancing environmental and human security through sustainable ecosystem management.
5. **Greening the world economy:** integrating ecosystem conservation values in economic policy, finance and markets.

Based on national needs and comparative advantage of IUCN Nepal, and responding to the need for Nepal to contribute to regional collaboration, five Nepal specific thematic programme areas have been identified to contribute to the global thematic priority areas.

## 2. State and trend of ecosystem services and human well-being

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### 2.1 Human well-being

**Poverty:** Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. About 31% of people are below poverty line. The scale of poverty, lack of access over resources and inequity are higher in rural areas than in urban centres. Poverty is more prevalent and severe in rural areas where poverty incidence (44%) is almost double than in urban areas (23%)<sup>3</sup>. The incidence of poverty in the Mid Western and Far Western regions (72%) and in the mountain districts (56%) greatly exceeds the national average<sup>4</sup>. Poverty is more prevalent in lower caste, especially the *Dalits* and minority groups in the rural areas. Recent trend indicates that urban poverty is declining faster than rural poverty—from 21 percent to 9 percent during 1995/96 to 2003/04 period compared with 43 percent to 35 percent for rural areas during the same period<sup>5</sup>.

**Food security:** Until early 1980s, Nepal was a food surplus country but due to the slow agricultural growth and rapid population increase, food security at the households and district level has been a serious challenge. Nearly 25% of families are landless and majority of households who own land do not produce enough food to meet their own food requirement. About 40 districts out of 75 are food-deficit.

**Health and education:** Health and education sectors are getting additional attention since 1990s. On the whole, indicators on educational achievement show a steady but rather slow progress in the past one and half decade. Adult literacy percentage has increased from 33% in 1991 to 48% in 2003 whereas net enrolment in primary education has increased from 64% to 83% over the same period<sup>6</sup>. Investment in the educational institutions from the public sector is flourishing in the recent past. But access of the poor and *Dalit* on primary education, high drop out rate and poor school infrastructure are some of the major challenges of this sector. The problems are further compounded with the poor implementation capacity, centralized system and escalating conflict. Overall, health indicators at national level are improving, but rural-urban disparity is very high as most facilities have been concentrated in the city area. The health status of children is very poor and maternal mortality is also high. In fact, it is worse than the South Asian average. Infant and under-five mortality rate per thousand was 64 and 91 in 2001 respectively.

**Gender and social exclusion:** Despite some other progress in social development during the past one and half decade, gender disparity and social inequity were not addressed adequately. Issues related to women, indigenous groups and *Dalits* still remain as a challenge in mainstreaming their deprivation issues in the national politics and resource access. The Gender Development Index (GDI) in Nepal has a score of 0.452 as against the SDI value of 0.471; which suggests that the depths of gender disparity in opportunities are not very great. The GDI for rural areas (0.430) is significantly lower for the urban areas (0.562), indicating a higher degree of gender inequality in rural areas<sup>7</sup>. But these issues, especially after the People's Movement 2006, have been considered as a priority and are being addressed. In recent days, creation of socially inclusive society is becoming widely used buzzwords amongst development and political communities.

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<sup>3</sup> Nepal Human Development Report 2004

<sup>4</sup> ADB, Country Strategy and Program 2005-2009, Nepal

<sup>5</sup> IFAD Nepal Country Strategic Opportunities Program 2006

<sup>6</sup> MDG National Assessment for Nepal 2006

<sup>7</sup> Nepal Human Development Report 2006

**Water supply and sanitation:** Safe and access to water both in the rural and urban areas is a big problem in Nepal. National status over 15 years (1990-2005) on water supply and sanitation improved from 46% to 81% and 6% to 39% respectively. But quality of water and access to water for the poor and disadvantaged, solid waste management and its environmental issues are still to be addressed adequately. The government has developed a National Water Plan (2002-2027) in an effort to meet the increasing demand of drinking water and sanitation facilities.

**Energy:** In 2004, of the 58 municipalities, 44 were connected at the national grid with electrification. Of the remaining 14 municipalities, 80% were partially electrified. However, the municipalities in remote areas are partially electrified. Of the 3940 VDCs, only 339 are fully electrified and another 1077 partially electrified. It is extremely difficult to bring the mountain and hill belts under electrification due to the difficult terrain and thinly distributed residential houses. More than 3% of the household with access to electricity have photovoltaic systems, while another 1% benefit from biogas plants. Despite improvements of the energy supply through hydropower, solar and biogas, the majority of rural people and most of all the poor are still dependent on firewood as their primary energy source.

The Government of Nepal is currently developing a comprehensive plan for long-term energy development activities in the country, and is trying to develop a coordinated perspective on development of energy (energy perspective plan) in the country by coordinating both conventional and non-conventional sources of energy. Discussion is also going on to set up a separate ministerial level institution in to deal exclusively with energy sector development activities and to regulate the energy market. Therefore, it is right time that IUCN gets involved in the development of green energy in Nepal, and assist the government in making the energy sector perspective plan pro-poor and environmental friendly.

**Conflict and its transformation:** Eleven years of long conflict has affected all political, social and economic spheres of Nepal. About 13,500 people were killed and more than 600,000 people were internally displaced. During the period of conflict, infrastructure worth NRs 5,110 million (equivalent to US\$77 million) was destroyed, development support and service delivery disrupted and economic growth was severely retarded.

Now, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), which began the movement 11 years ago, joined the political mainstream through a long process of peace negotiation with a seven party coalition government and other major political forces in the country. Recently, an interim constitution has been institutionalized. The country is heading for constituent assembly election in the immediate future and to restructure the country based upon the new constitution prepared and endorsed by the constituent assembly. Therefore, the overall governance structure in the country as such is in a transition stage now, characterized by uncertainty in mainstream political agenda and actions of the major political parties, protests from minority and disadvantaged groups demanding for more fundamental rights and protection in the new constitutions, and fragile law and order situation, in general. Even as the environment for development activities and services, at both national and local level, have drastically improved compared to the previous years, the situation is not yet satisfactory due to ongoing political unrests and demonstrations and strikes.

Transformation of the political system towards a democratic and stable governance system and improvement of socio- economic indicators are major challenges that Nepal is facing currently. The National Planning Commission is now preparing a three- year interim plan to support the transformation process.

Nepal has made rapid progress towards achieving most of the health related MDGs, with many MDG targets likely to be achieved or met with sustained efforts and a positive environment. The HIV/AIDS related goal is unlikely to be met. In terms of the Environmental Sustainability goal (MDG 7), the target can be met with a scaling up of efforts. There is a risk that the focus on peace building and state restructuring will detract attention from both HIV/AIDS and longer term environment issues. Another key challenge is to promote sustainable management and provide for the energy needs of a growing economy without undermining the ability of poor and marginalised people to meet their livelihood needs.

## **2.2 Natural resources and conservation issues**

Nepal's ecology and environment are diverse and fragile. While the country occupies just over 0.1% of the earth's land surface, it supports a disproportionately high number of globally important wild animal and plant species, as well as a wide variety of domesticated plants and animals (see box below). Nepal's rich biodiversity has been contributing to livelihoods of people directly by providing nutrition, health care, raw materials and cash income, and indirectly by ensuring basic services such as water regulation, filtration and air purification. Being a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nepal is committed to conserve and utilize its biological resources sustainably and equitably. Towards achieving the CBD objectives, Nepal has prepared the National Biodiversity Strategy in 2002, and developed an implementation plan to materialize it.

### **BOX 1: Nepal's share in global biodiversity**

Nepal is endowed with 4.2% of the world's known butterfly species (640 spp), 2.2% of fresh water fish species (182 spp), 1.1% of amphibians (43 spp), 1.5% of reptiles (100 spp), 8.5% of birds (852 spp) and 4.2% of mammals (181 spp). Nepal's variety of domesticated plants and animals include over 400 species of agro-horticultural crops and about 200 species of vegetables, of which approximately 50 species have been domesticated for commercial and household purposes. Fifteen fruits with more than 100 varieties, 50 vegetables with 200 varieties, and 10 varieties of potatoes are cultivated commercially.

Nepal has increased protected areas from just 8% in 1980s to about 20% of the country's surface area now. The ratio of protected area to total land area of the country is one of the highest in Asia. In total, it possesses nine National Parks, three conservation areas, nine buffer zones, 4 wildlife reserves and 1 hunting reserve. Wetland sites account for five percent of Nepal's total surface area. Nepal's wetlands support about 193 bird species. To date, four wetland sites have been declared as International Ramsar sites and few from high mountain areas are in the process of declaring as additional Ramsar sites. Besides supporting biodiversity, wetlands are crucial in the livelihoods of the poor. About 172 plant species of the major wetlands are identified, and they are important for providing food, forage and escape cover for both domestic animals and wildlife species. Realizing the need of integrated and holistic conservation, since 2000, Nepal has been adopting the landscape-based approach to conservation.

Long-standing governance problems, coupled with human demands on environment and external pressures such as climate change and development, pose a huge threat to the sustainable management of natural resources. The degradation of ecosystems have serious adverse effects on people's livelihoods and development in Nepal, most directly on the rural population (85% of the total) and those dependent on natural resource based sectors, such as agriculture, livestock, fishing and forestry. In terms of conservation, Nepal has been considered as a high risk and low capacity country

in South Asia. Environmental threats in Nepal can be grouped under the following headings:

### **2.3 Forest degradation:**

Forests are a major resource base in Nepal, providing energy, animal fodder, timber, wild food and animal products, medicinal plants, on which especially poor rural people rely for subsistence, barter and trade. Pristine forests are a major attraction for tourists, and forest catchment areas are a main sources of water used in hydroelectric power generation, irrigation and domestic consumption. Despite many successes in the previous decades mainly as a result of community forestry initiatives, Nepal's forests are decreasing both in area coverage and density. The deforestation is calculated to be about 1.3 percent annually. Further, forest degradation and forest biodiversity loss lead to increasing soil erosion, landslides and floods and a reduction of the productive capacity of agricultural land.

### **2.4 Loss of agro-biodiversity:**

Small-scale farmers in Nepal have nurtured and maintained diverse crop genetic resources for their immediate food needs and survival. Agro-biodiversity makes vulnerable livelihoods more resilient by providing risk-spreading options across a range of species rather than relying on a few. At present, genetic diversity is decreasing all over rural Nepal.

### **2.5 Degradation of freshwater bodies:**

The many different types of **freshwater** bodies in Nepal – ranging from perennially flowing rivers to seasonal streams, lowland oxbow lakes, high altitude glacial lakes, swamps, marshes, paddy fields, reservoirs and ponds - harbour a rich biological diversity, which is threatened by the degradation of these areas. Degradation of freshwater bodies leads to loss of essential ecosystem services such as flood protection, nutrient and sediment retention, water quality improvement and maintenance of the groundwater table. Some of the poorest and most marginalized communities in Nepal depend on freshwater bodies for their livelihoods, and are adversely affected by loss and degradation of freshwater bodies.

### **2.6 Impact of climate change:**

In real terms, even though greenhouse gas emission levels are low, Nepal's mountainous communities and ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the impact of **climate change**. Three of Nepal's snow-fed rivers have shown declining trends in discharge. This has effects on water availability and hydropower generation. Changes in vegetation pattern are likely to occur, and will affect natural biodiversity as well as agriculture resulting in a potential food security risk. According to IPCC fourth assessment report (April 2007), it is highly likely that some weather events and extremes will become more frequent, more widespread and/or more intense during the 21<sup>st</sup> century which will mostly impact on agriculture/forestry, water resources, human health, industry, settlement and society.

### 3. Root causes and emerging challenges

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In Nepal, longstanding governance problems, ever increasing human demands on environment, over-exploitation of natural resources and external pressures of climate change and economic growth, pose a huge threat to the sustainable management of natural resources. Besides these, due to the booming global and regional economic trade and globalization process, conserving the biological diversity and enhancing the ecosystem services have been affected. The main root causes of the described environmental problems and biodiversity loss in Nepal, identified during the strategic planning process, include, but are not limited to:

Prevailing major **social inequities** in access to and control over natural resources and in distribution of costs and benefits escalate the stress on the country's natural resources. Socially marginalized groups often lack user rights, are not involved in decision-making processes and therefore lack incentives to manage the resources in a sustainable way. Insecure rights to environmental resources, as well as inadequate access to environmental information, markets, and decision-making, limit the capacity of these groups to protect the environment and improve their livelihoods and wellbeing.

Significant parts of Nepal's rural population live in absolute **poverty**, lack livelihood opportunities and are highly dependent on subsistence agriculture and natural resources. Low levels of education, a poor infrastructure base and low levels of industrial development are major problems in these areas. While rural poverty constitutes a major challenge for conservation and sustainable development, further loss of environmental resources leads to growing poverty, since the level of dependence of the natural resources is high.

**Weak Governance**, such as insufficient institutional capacity and lack of accountability and commitment to enforce natural resource related legalisation and policies, contribute to skewed distribution of benefits and overexploitation of resources. Even if the legislative framework in environmental sectors could be considered appropriate, its implementation remains in many cases non-satisfactory, and insufficient implementation and enforcement of laws, bylaws and individually binding acts remain an area of concern. Additionally, inappropriate coordination mechanisms lead to conflicting stands and competition between different government institutions.

Adequate **economic incentives** for resource managers are not in place to ensure that the resources are not overexploited and degraded. There is lack of knowledge of ecosystem services, and the economic value of functional ecosystems is not translated into economic incentives to conserve them. For example, there are no adequate incentives in place to ensure that ecosystem goods are sustainably used, or to prevent ecosystem degradation and loss of ecosystem services caused by intensive agriculture through extensive use of chemicals.

**Globalized economic trade and growth** may have significant conservation impacts. Consumption of natural resources such as fossil fuels, forest products and water will be increased rapidly, which will exert the heavy pressure on environment and natural resource management. As Nepal is situated in between two economically rising countries i.e. India and China, appropriate measures need to be well thought in advance to mitigate the future challenges.

Government of Nepal is a party to 21 **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** (MEAs), but the development of appropriate policies and legislation, and their implementation at the national level are still major challenges. IUCN Nepal provides support to enhance compliance with these conventions as well as to strengthen Nepal's voice in the shaping of these global governance structures. There is need to develop capacity of government officials, members of local government and non-governmental organizations as the awareness and understanding of those MEAs is very limited. It is also important to strengthen the national and local enabling governance framework to support multi-stakeholder and decentralized conservation and management of natural resources.

#### 4. Conservation opportunities and policy analysis

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Nepal presents a complex mix of problems and potentials for conservation and sustainable development. Although the country is classified as one of the poorest in the world, there are many good examples of conservation and development practices deeply imbedded in some of these poor communities. Besides addressing the above-mentioned root causes of the environmental problems, IUCN Nepal will put special emphasis on the identification of opportunities for biodiversity conservation and build on them.

Despite the **political change** since April 2006, the political situation in Nepal remains fragile, and the political process for restoring peace and strengthening democracy will be challenging. However, with the current political climate in Nepal geared towards the peace process and the government's willingness to peacefully resolve conflicts, these developments present an unprecedented opportunity for IUCN to work on its mandate in addressing poverty and livelihood issues through conservation measures and demonstrate the strong links between peace, stability, security and natural resources.

The varied **natural environment base** is one of Nepal's biggest assets. The large diversity of ecosystems and microhabitats make natural resource management challenging, but also involves great potential. Nepal's natural resources and biodiversity have played an important role in livelihood support of the majority of its people, and will continue to do so in the future. Forests provide a large variety of forest products, and the rich agro-biodiversity can be a major asset for the country. Nepal has the potential to produce premium and high value agricultural products as well as medicines from indigenous herbs and genetic resources. Nepal's biologically and culturally rich and diverse landscape with great natural beauty has also enormous potentials for tourism.

The principal objective of the three year Interim Plan of the Government of Nepal is to reduce human poverty through employment-oriented and inclusive economic growth focusing on the issues of reconstruction, restoration and reintegration and provide the basis for individual and national and social and economic prosperity and new Nepal through good governance, social justice and inclusive development process. Health, education, social service and gender equity are also among other priority areas along with development of very remote areas and border areas.

Main policies include utilizing geographic diversity and historical, religious and cultural sites for promotion of nature tourism; conducting technical feasibility of using big lakes as airport for the purpose of promoting tourism; developing special development programmes for Karnali zone; and making service delivery effective through making the state machinery inclusive.

Over the last decade, Nepal has been adopting **innovative conservation approaches**, which recognize the role and importance of people and lived-in landscapes for the long-term conservation of biodiversity. In 1988, Nepal successfully launched the community forestry programme, especially in the mid-hills. After the introduction of conservation areas concept, since the mid-1980s, protected area management has recognized the existence of settlement and private farming rights within the protected area boundaries, initiated co-management of natural resources, and supported initiatives for community development. In mid 90s buffer zone concept was introduced to allow park authorities to share up to 50% of the incomes of park in the development of park adjoining areas. Recently implemented landscape based

conservation and community managed conservation approaches are quite promising which help ensure conservation of biodiversity in various parts of the country and can be good conservation models for many countries having similar socio-economic conditions. These examples show that there is high potential for ownership and commitment to manage and conserve natural resources at a community or local level. This can further be enhanced and built on by improving governance, by introducing adequate economic incentives for conservation and by interfacing conservation and management aspects with benefit sharing and equity issues. Nepal has some rich experiences to offer to the rest of Asia in terms of community managed natural resources.

After the **Millennium Ecosystem Report (MA 2005)**, a new focus has been provided on the conservation as well as support on the economic and social needs of the people. This has opened up new scope to work in participatory biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Nepal as well. Although Nepal has started working in the people-centred biodiversity conservation for more than three decades, this turning point has formally opened up avenues to explore further areas of collaborative and participatory work in the areas of ecosystem management and human well-being.

**Nepal's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)** aim to link environmental problems with those of poverty and inequity. This includes the agro-ecosystem approach for conservation of agro-biodiversity; the landscape approach for sustainable management of forests and biodiversity conservation, integrated watershed management; and the incorporation of gender dimension into the management of natural resources.

However Nepal's **Interim Development Plan (2007-2009)** focuses on post conflict issues so that people will get dividend of peace in the a short possible period. The principal objective of the three-year Interim Plan is to reduce human poverty through employment oriented and inclusive economic growth focusing on the issues of reconstruction, restoration and reintegration.

The **Nepal Biodiversity Strategy** has recognized that biological diversity in Nepal is closely linked to the livelihoods of people and their economic development. NBS strongly advocates on the value of people's participation and empowerment in conservation and has apprehended the need of sectoral integration and multi-stakeholder approach for the biodiversity conservation in Nepal.

Further, Nepal has signed and ratified a number of important **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)** and participated in other multilateral environmental initiatives. Of particular relevance is the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, which recognizes the conservation of biological diversity as "a common concern of humankind" and an integral part of the development process. The Convention establishes three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

**Millennium Development Goals:** IUCN recognises the link between the health of the natural environment and human wellbeing and explicitly seeks to address the elements of the MDGs that relate to the environment-development nexus. Conservation can contribute to poverty reduction, particularly through restoring ecosystems and by improving access of the poor to ecosystem goods and services. Hence, the IUCN Nepal programme directly supports the MDGs, principally MDG-1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), MDG-3 (Promote gender equality and

empower women), MDG-7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) and MDG-8 (Develop a global partnership for development). The Goals are an integrated set: progress in achieving one MDG depends on also achieving others. Since all life on earth, and human wellbeing, depends on ecosystem services, MDG 7 on Environmental Sustainability provides a foundation upon which others can build.

Both the donors and IUCN's areas of interest are well compatible and promising for future collaboration. Besides assisting in the peace building process and establishing a stable government and economy, environmental issues are also not out of their sight, as donors are aware that they play a major role in achieving the two foremost. The spectrum of potential priorities of donor intervention goes from integrated watershed management, natural resources management and livelihoods, biodiversity, trans-boundary water related issues, air pollution, energy issues to climate change with cross-cutting issues of social inclusion and empowerment. This matches perfectly with the programme priorities of IUCN Nepal, which were identified in collaboration with the IUCN Nepal stakeholders and partners.

## 5. The IUCN niche and approach

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IUCN Nepal continues to improve scientific understanding of what natural ecosystems provide to humans. But it also seeks to ensure this knowledge is used in practical ways by bringing together scientists, policy makers, business leaders and NGOs to impact the way the world values and uses nature.

IUCN Nepal believes in integrating ecological benefits with the socio-economic interests of the people. Improving the management of natural resources, enhancing the ecosystems services, strengthening national and local institutions for stable and democratic governance, and enabling people to pursue sustainable livelihoods are all closely linked: progress in one area is not possible without progress in the others.

### 5.1 Our niche and role

IUCN's global network of experience in the fields of science, management policy and communication on biodiversity and natural resource use provides a platform for the conservation community and others to access credible and usable knowledge of environmental issues. This unique structure as a Union enables us to convene civil society and governments for democratic dialogues on conservation and sustainable development issues, and offers access to key actors in government and the NGO community.

IUCN Nepal Country Office brings added value to the global IUCN mission and to conservation and sustainable development in Nepal. This results from the fact that IUCN has been actively involved in Nepal since the 1960s, and have always been responsive to local and national needs as well as to global challenges.

IUCN Nepal's niche for the biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in Nepal includes:

- A neutral platform: a convener and bridge-builder between civil society and governments to develop unified approaches, partnerships and forums, including the business community, for collective action on conservation.
- A practice-policy linker: a source of practical advice and skills for development and conservation – for policy development, capacity building at all levels and for developing diverse, sustainable, livelihood strategies.
- A knowledge manager: a reliable and credible global network, dedicated to building and disseminating knowledge and best practice for the conservation of nature and natural resources.
- Permanent presence in the country and at the national level gives us credibility, understanding of complex national and local issues, and good long-term relationships with development and conservation partners.
- Community-level work and presence in communities through our projects has given us a deep understanding of intra-village dynamics and of relations between local and central levels.
- Long experience in applying participatory approaches to development interventions in Nepal, in particular community empowerment and capacity building in the conservation sector.
- A strong base of support from our members, donors and other development partners.

## **5.2 Intervention strategy**

IUCN Nepal has adopted an intervention strategy, focused on *knowledge*, *empowerment* and *governance* to ensure maximum impact.

To an extent, this strategy assumes that when knowledge is available and people and institutions are empowered to use it, they can participate more effectively in decision-making processes to improve laws, policies, instruments and institutions. However, we also recognise that the flow from knowledge, empowerment to governance is not always linear. The exercise of power can also generate particular types of knowledge. IUCN aims to be a knowledge-based organisation that facilitates appropriate decision-making processes, ensures effective links between knowledge, practice and policy, and enables its constituency to make better-informed decisions.

### **5.2.1 From the local to the regional**

IUCN Nepal is part of the IUCN Group 2 and has been developing and applying knowledge through practical experience and expertise. This requires effective collaboration with partners, as well as between different parts of IUCN.

Our different levels of interventions can be described as follows:

*Local:* IUCN Nepal is actively engaged in managing and restoring ecosystems and improving people's lives, economies and societies at the community level through its projects.

*National:* the field level is closely linked with the national level through specific components, which focus on policy development and enforcement and conservation learning. Through collaboration and joint policy initiatives with key strategic partners, IUCN promotes local, national and global policy changes and enforcement.

*Regional:* many ecosystem and livelihood issues transcend political boundaries, and scientific analysis and other lessons can be exchanged to promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Regional and sub-regional collaboration is also necessary to prepare common positions on international issues and strengthen the region's voice in global arenas.

### **5.2.2 Partnership approach**

IUCN promotes effective partnerships among civil society, private sector and government, and gives beneficiaries the incentive and means to take ownership and responsibility. IUCN Nepal works in close collaboration with central and local government bodies, NGOs, corporate sector, media, research institutions and communities to plan and implement its programmes. IUCN Nepal will emphasize to work closely with its Institutional and individual members.

### **5.2.3 Learning and adaptive management**

IUCN Nepal uses a participatory management process for identifying and implementing programme activities. Its Programmes and projects are based on "adaptive management", which implies that learning is actively used to adjust and update the programme and its TPAs. A monitoring, evaluation and reporting culture is being strengthened where monitoring is not solely for control purposes, but serves as the basis for improving the programme where as evaluation will be taken as a platform of joint learning.

All these monitoring and evaluation practices provide opportunities to be more adaptive and improve the resilience to the changing context.

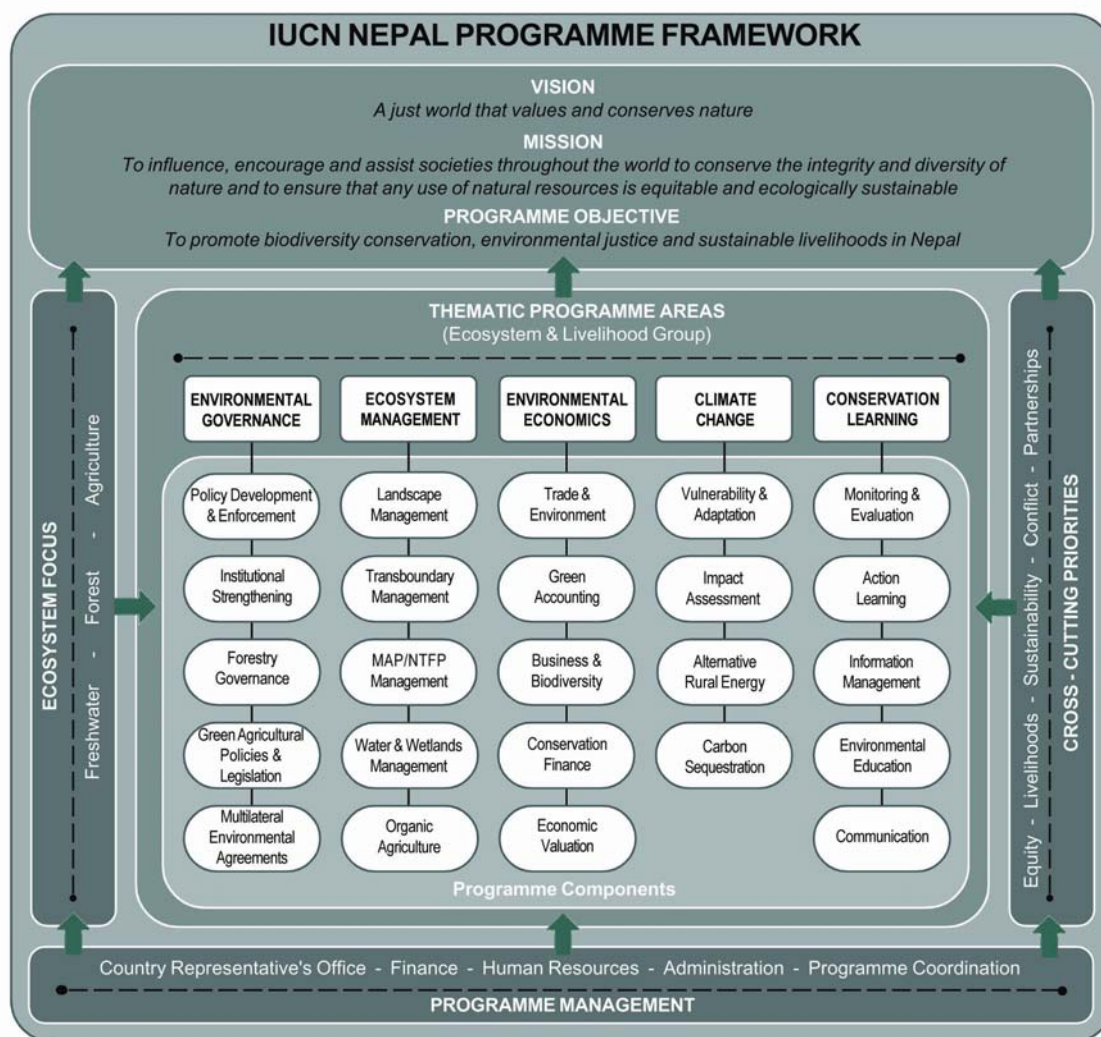
### **5.3 Policy practice linkage**

IUCN Nepal has been a pioneer in facilitating the integration of conservation in all aspects of Nepal's development strategy, the preparation of the National Conservation Strategy, assistance in establishing Environmental Impact Assessment system and processes, and working with the government in preparation of the Nepal Environment Policy and Action Plans. IUCN Nepal recently contributed to the development of national policies on national wetlands policy, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (AGRBS) bill, Churia Area Programme Strategy (CAPS), and gender, poverty and social exclusion (GPSE) monitoring indicators. IUCN Nepal will keep this momentum of linking and contributing the policy practice linkage in future as well.

## 6. THE IUCN NEPAL Programme (2009-2012)

### 6.1 Programme overview

The IUCN Nepal Programme objective evolved from IUCN's global vision and mission, and from our experience of the emerging challenges in Nepal. IUCN Nepal has determined who it wants to benefit (target beneficiaries), which major ecosystems to focus on (ecosystem focus) and a set of priorities which all programme activities should address (cross-cutting priorities). Programme work is organized under five mutually supportive Thematic Programme Areas (TPAs) and their components. The various aspects of the programme are shown in the following diagram and explained in more detail afterwards.



## 6.2 Global IUCN vision, mission and IUCN Asia goals

IUCN's global vision is *"A just world that values and conserves nature."*

Our global mission is *"To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable."*

## 6.3 The IUCN Nepal programme objective

IUCN Nepal works to further IUCN's global vision, mission and regional goals in Nepal. We are committed to assisting Nepal in its endeavour to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while at the same time contributing to the reduction of poverty and the promotion of social equity and environmental justice. Our objective in Nepal is:

***"To promote biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and sustainable livelihoods in Nepal."***

The programme will maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs between the three elements of this objective: *Biodiversity Conservation, Environmental Justice and Sustainable Livelihoods*.

IUCN's niche is where people and ecosystems interact. Its intention is to influence people's attitudes and behaviour in how they interact with the natural environment. By changing people's actions, IUCN extends its impact to improving people's livelihoods and supporting environmental sustainability.

## 6.4 Target Beneficiaries

Analyses of the underlying causes of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in Nepal indicate that key root causes are acute inequity and social exclusion; extreme poverty and vulnerability; weak governance and inadequate economic incentives for sustainable natural resource management. The most affected groups are the poor, *Dalit*, women and ethnic groups. These groups have been marginalized in the development process and mainstream of society, and their representation and participation in natural resource management and conservation is limited. The roles and responsibilities of women to manage natural resources is growing day by day as men are increasingly forced to migrate to cities or even abroad for jobs to support their families.

## 6.5 Ecosystem Focus

IUCN Nepal has long had a focus on forest and freshwater ecosystems as being of particular importance in Nepal. Between them, they provide vital ecosystem services and support rural livelihoods. In view of about 80% of Nepal's population that is directly dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods and the impacts of agriculture on biodiversity conservation, we have added agriculture as a third area of focus.

## 6.6 Cross-Cutting Priorities

We align the programme with five crosscutting priorities, *equity; livelihoods; sustainability; conflict* and *partnerships*, to ensure that our efforts are targeted in the right way and bring lasting change. These priorities guide the way IUCN works at all stages of the project cycle from design to final review.

## 7. Thematic Programme Areas

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The five mutually supportive Thematic Programme Areas (TPAs) are designed to enable a coordinated response to the emerging challenges in Nepal. Within the TPAs, the integrations of different components is important to make sure that common issues are jointly addressed, that different approaches in project implementation are not counter-productive, and that the messages given to target groups, beneficiaries and stakeholders are uniform. Integration of the components will also ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

The five thematic programme areas of the Nepal Intersessional Plan are directly linked to the five global thematic priority areas of IUCN's global Intersessional Plan. Their results will contribute directly to the achievement of the 10 global results. Nepal has 25 programme components with 38 results, contributing to all the global results. Due to the priorities of Nepal, the majority supports the achievement of global result 1.1, 1.2, 4.1 and 5.1 and the remaining on a lesser scale (details are reflected in the attached table)

### **TPA 1: Environmental Governance (EG)**

Environmental governance is a dynamic system by which different actors exercise power to manage environmental issues of public concern. It comprises formal and informal norms, processes and institutions through which these actors articulate and reconcile their interests, rights and obligations. Ensuring better environmental governance requires focusing on the social dimensions of natural resource use and ecosystem management in addition to the technical management aspects. Principles of strong governance such as the right of a citizen to participate, transparency of institutions and processes, accountability of decision makers, the right to obtain information and the need to address public corruption are all matters of environmental governance. A focus on governance adds an explicit consideration of fairness, equity and justice.

#### **Objective:**

*To promote better environmental governance to conserve, use and manage the environment and natural resources equitably and sustainably from local to global level.*

**Components.** The objective will be achieved through the following components:

***Policy Formulation & Enforcement:*** Promoting the formulation and enforcement of sound policy and legal frameworks through policy advocacy and influence.

#### Results and Targets:

1. Government integrates the principles of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in its natural resource management policies and legislations. Community Managed Conservation Area Regulations formulated and implemented.

***Institutional Strengthening:*** Building capacity of local and national government institutions and civil society organizations to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

#### Results and Targets:

1. Capacity of government agencies and NGOs enhanced for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods at different levels.

**Forestry Governance:** Promoting better governance in community forests, leasehold forests and buffer zones through addressing second-generation issues (e.g. equity and governance).

Results and Targets:

1. Model statutes developed for community forest user groups to address equity and governance issues are developed and replicated in other parts of Nepal.
2. Selected components of Gender and Social Equity Strategy developed by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation are implemented.

**Green Agricultural Legislation & Policies:** Facilitating greening of agricultural legislation (e.g. farmers' rights) and periodic plans and policies (e.g. agricultural subsidy, pesticides, and certification).

Results and Targets:

1. Environmental friendly agricultural policies developed (district level) and piloted in two districts.

**Multilateral Environmental Agreements:** Influencing the development and implementation of selected multilateral environmental agreements to which Nepal is a party.

Results and Targets:

1. Implementation status of at least 3 selected MEAs (e.g. CBD, World Heritage, Ramsar Convention) improved.
2. Collaborative Management Plan for at least one Ramsar site developed and implemented.

## **TPA 2: Ecosystem Management (EM)**

Well-managed ecosystems are the basis for sustainable development and human security. They are critical to addressing root causes of biodiversity loss, and an essential requirement for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The Ecosystem Management programme places human needs at the centre of biodiversity management and promotes the integrated management of land, water and living resources in an equitable way. It aims to reach a balance between conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of natural resources.

### **Objective:**

*To promote equitable and effective ecosystem management for improved livelihood security and biodiversity conservation.*

**Components.** The objective will be achieved through the following components:

**Landscape Management:** Promoting the conservation of biological and cultural diversity in inhabited landscapes and linking protected areas to larger conservation zones.

Results and Targets:

1. At least two mountain landscape areas effectively and equitably managed to link important PA systems.
2. Updated information of IUCN Red list (of endangered species) incorporated in Nepal Conservation policies and plans.
3. Biodiversity survey findings of Far and Mid-Western Mountain corridors incorporated into Nepal Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan.

**Trans-boundary Management:** Supporting trans-boundary cooperation through sharing of experiences and transfer of technologies for species and habitat conservation.

Results and Targets:

1. Regional level (SAARC) or transboundary cooperation mechanisms to manage Invasive Alien Species developed and implemented
2. Conservation protocols / legal arrangements to prevent and control illegal wildlife trade initiated by Nepal and neighbouring countries.

**MAP/NTFP Management:** Developing in-situ and ex-situ conservation and promoting value addition and marketing of selected MAPs/NTFPs.

Results and Targets:

1. Equitable access to and benefit for disadvantaged groups incorporated within National, Sub-national and district level MAPs and NTFPs management and marketing practices

**Water & Wetlands Management:** Promoting conservation of selected wetlands and aquatic species and habitats and of wetlands related traditions and cultures.

Results and Targets:

1. Wetland bio-diversity conservation values integrated into national policy and planning framework.
2. Strengthened national institutional, technical and economic capacity and awareness for wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
3. National wetland inventory updated
4. Enhanced collaborative management of wetlands resources in Koshi Tappu and Ghodaghodi for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
5. E-flows and PES application mechanism within IWRM frame established for Nepal.

**Pro-poor environment policies:** Pro-poor issues are well integrated into national/local environment and conservation sector policies.

Results and Targets:

1. Understanding on linkages between rural poverty and environment are incorporated into national and sub-national environmental policies.

### **TPA 3: Environmental Economics (EE)**

Environmental resources have immense local, national and global economic value for subsistence, commerce, industry and development purposes. Yet some of the most pervasive threats to the environment arise from economic factors such as high incidences of poverty, inequitable growth patterns, unsupportive economic policies and price and market distortions that do not reflect the full value of the natural environment. The EE programme is working to build capacity to deal with these issues and ensure that conservation makes good economic and financial sense for sustainable development.

**Objective:**

*To identify and promote economic and financial measures which integrate the full economic value of biodiversity and equitable cost-benefit sharing at the local and national level.*

**Components.** The objective will be achieved through the following components:

**Trade and Environment:** Facilitating incorporation of environmental consideration into national and international trade negotiations and agreements.

Results and Targets:

1. Environmental implications are taken into consideration while implementing free trade agreements and treaties [bilateral, regional (SAFTA) & multilateral (WTO)] (issues: pollution, over use of forest products, deforestation, invasive alien species, agro-biodiversity loss, GMO, Traditional Knowledge).
2. Environmental considerations are well incorporated while planning and designing national trade policies as well as special economic zones.

**Business and Biodiversity:** Facilitating synergies between the business agenda and biodiversity conservation to increase conservation incentives for businesses and local communities.

Results and Targets:

1. At least 2 Leading Corporate houses adopted corporate social responsibility.
2. Multi-stakeholders dialogue (private and NGOs) for business and biodiversity institutionalized.

**Conservation Finance:** Identifying and promoting efficient and equitable economic means for financing environmental conservation.

Results and Targets:

1. Payment for Environmental Services (PES) system is developed, and implemented in selected watersheds.
2. Innovative conservation financing policies, compatible with economic incentives of resources users, are adopted into the national/local conservation and PA programmes

**Economic Valuation:** Studying and promoting awareness of the economic value of environmental and ecological products and services.

Results and Targets:

1. Information on multifunctional uses (values) of selected watershed sites is available for national/regional policy makers and project planners.
2. Environmental economic valuation framework incorporated into PES and related environmental and conservation financing policies.

**TPA 4: Climate Change (CC)**

Global climate change is one of the most pressing concerns of the 21st century. Rising temperature, changing rainfall patterns and increased extreme events are already being observed and will have serious implications for economies, society and the environment. Improving the capacity of Nepal's biodiversity and poorest communities to adapt to its inevitable impacts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit future climate change are the two central challenges of the CC Programme.

**Objective:**

*To facilitate understanding of potential threats of climate change and help build capacity for mitigation and adaptation.*

**Components.** The objective will be achieved through the following components:  
**Vulnerability & Adaptation:** Studying and understanding communities' vulnerability to climate change and facilitating adaptation to potential climatic risks.

Results and Targets:

1. Community adaptation strategy to climate change, demonstrated in 3 sites, representing 3 ecological zones.
2. Innovative NRM approaches, which minimize the climate change impact on livelihoods and security, are incorporated in national plan and policies
3. National capacity on the adaptation to climate change enhanced

**Impact Assessments:** Contributing to the understanding of vulnerability of society and biodiversity, especially agro-biodiversity, forests, water and wetlands to climate change.

Results and Targets:

1. Report (Knowledge) on vulnerability to climate change and community adaptation prepared for 3 ecological zones.

**Alternative Energy:** Promoting alternative energy to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and to mitigate threats to biodiversity.

Results and Targets:

1. Bio-fuel demonstration project set up in one site.
2. Clean energy mechanisms demonstrated in one village in each project site

**Carbon Sequestration:** Studying the potentiality and facilitating the use of carbon sequestration funds to mitigate climate change and ensure conservation incentives for rural people.

Results and Targets:

1. National negotiation capacity on CDM mechanisms enhanced.

### **TPA 5: Conservation Learning (CL)**

IUCN, members, partners and other stakeholders face increasing challenges to respond to the complexities and uncertainties of sustainable development. The Conservation Learning TPA facilitates learning and innovation to address these challenges at the national level, but is linked to regional and global learning networks. Interventions promote learning and change at the individual level (new knowledge and skills), organizational level (new priorities, procedures, and practices) and social level (new agendas, partnerships, and ways of interacting and participating).

**Objective:**

*To facilitate learning, manage knowledge and strengthen co-operation between IUCN members, commissions, partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries from the local to the global level.*

**Components.** The objective will be achieved through the following components:

**Strategic Planning:** Facilitating participatory strategic planning processes and platforms for projects, programmes, strategies and policies.

Results and Targets:

1. Strategic priorities of community, country, regional and global level are reflected in programmes and projects.

**Monitoring & Evaluation:** Refining and promoting existing and developing new participatory monitoring and evaluation systems for projects, programmes and biodiversity.

Results and Targets:

1. GPSE indicators integrated into planning, monitoring and evaluation systems at national and regional level.
2. Indicators for monitoring ecosystem health developed and adapted in IUCN Nepal projects.

**Action Learning:** Facilitating multi-disciplinary action learning processes and studies to encourage innovation and effective links between knowledge, practice and policy.

Results and Targets:

1. NTFPs and MAPs sustainable management models (developed by IUCN Nepal) replicated in other parts of the country.
2. Tools and management practices for improving ecosystem goods and services are adopted by other stakeholders in Churia area.
3. Improved information on participatory management and innovative conservation financing mechanisms shared at regional and global level.

**Communication:** Supporting communication, networking and dissemination of learning and trends using alternative and new information and communication technologies.

Results and Targets:

1. Knowledge and experience shared within and outside IUCN through web, publications and other platforms.

## 8 Key Risks for Nepal programme

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All organisations face certain risks in carrying out their activities. For IUCN Nepal, risk analyses are carried out for each project or set of projects within a programme, but there are a number of generic exogenous risks (those not generated from within the programme), which apply to Nepal Programme:

- Political processes in Nepal could hinder improvements in governance. *Likelihood – high, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – medium.*
- Climate change and natural disasters could have rapid and wide-ranging impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, agriculture, livelihood security, human health, and national and regional political and economic relations. *Likelihood – low, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – medium.*
- Social inequities could continue to divide communities and hinder improvements in governance and equitable sharing of costs and benefits, despite best efforts. *Likelihood – medium, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – medium.*
- Access to local, national or international markets may be limited, and could limit livelihood strategies. *Likelihood – high, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – low.*
- Economic crisis could have wide-ranging negative impacts on livelihoods and capacities for good governance and sustainable natural resource management. *Likelihood – medium, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – medium.*
- Illegal or unregulated natural resource use (such as poaching and logging) could undermine local conservation efforts *Likelihood – medium, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – low.*
- Democratic consideration of local, national or regional natural resource use proposals (e.g. water) could be undermined by powerful interests. *Likelihood – medium, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – medium.*
- Stakeholder collaboration could be insufficient to ensure effective implementation or scaling-up. *Likelihood – low, impact on IUCN Nepal Programme – high.*

There are other risks too such as conflict between local/regional and central authorities over resource management after the restructuring of the state.

## **9. Performance management**

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IUCN Nepal with support from IUCN Asia Regional Office adopts a performance management system (PMS) to ensure accountability, transparency and responsiveness in relation to the IUCN Nepal programme delivery and contributing toward achieving the results. The PMS will entail issues of programme and organizational managements such as effectiveness, efficiency, relevancy, conduct of business, financial health and viability, organizational learning and organizational capacity. In order to assess the performance, specific performance areas with their indicators will be developed and adopted.

Project management mechanisms will be further strengthened to improve the project and programme level effectiveness. Development and proper use of logframe of each project and programme will be ensured during project development and implementation. Programme level monitoring and evaluation will be an important component in order to assess the progress and track down the likelihood of achieving the proposed results.

In order to facilitate inclusive planning process, IUCN Nepal will adopt participatory and bottom-up planning processes. Programmes and projects are monitored in a regular basis and improvements are done accordingly where as programme and project evaluation covers the relevancy, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability issues of the respective projects or programmes. Reviews are carried out in a regular basis.

## Annex

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IUCN Headquarters has identified five global areas of work, the five thematic priority areas, each having 2 global results.

**1. Conserving biodiversity for life:** ensuring sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity from local to global levels.

- Biodiversity-related policy and government systems enable action towards the achievement of biodiversity conservation.
- IUCN standards, tools and knowledge for sustainable natural resource management available and used for biodiversity conservation, including effective management of global and regional common natural resources.

**2. Changing the climate forecast:** climate change policy and practice better integrate biodiversity considerations and opportunities.

- Climate change mitigation policies and practice include biodiversity concerns from local to global level.
- Natural resources management strategies to adapt the impact of climate change are adopted and implemented.

**3. Naturally energizing the future:** implementing ecologically sustainable, equitable and efficient energy systems.

- Energy policies and strategies mitigate the impact of the growing energy demand on biodiversity.
- Ecosystem services that underpin sustainable and equitable energy are incorporated in energy policies and strategies.

**4. Improving life in healthy ecosystems:** improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and vulnerability, and enhancing environmental and human security through sustainable ecosystem management.

- Development policies and strategies support vulnerable and poor stakeholders, especially women, to sustainably manage ecosystems for improved livelihoods.
- Sustainable environmental management reduces vulnerability to natural hazards and conflicts.

**5. Greening the world economy:** integrating ecosystem conservation values in economic policy, finance and markets.

- Economic, trade and investment policies better integrate biodiversity values.
- Companies, industry associations and consumer groups incorporate ecosystems into planning and action.

IUCN Nepal has allocated its components, activities and respective results to the Global Priorities and Results. The following component tables show how each IUCN Nepal component and result contributes to one or more Global Priorities and Results.

	Priority Areas (global)									
	1. Conserving biodiversity for life		2. Tackling the climate forecast		3. Naturally energizing the future		4. Improving life in healthy ecosystems		5. Greening the world economy	
Components Nepal	Global Results									
Environment Governance	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Policy Formulation &amp; Enforcement:</b> Promoting the formulation and enforcement of sound policy and legal frameworks through policy advocacy and influence. Results and Targets: 1. Government integrates the principles of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in its policies including legislation at national and sub-national. 2. Community Managed Conservation Area Regulations formulated and implemented.</li> </ul>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Institutional Strengthening:</b> Building capacity of local and national government institutions and civil society organizations to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. Results and Targets: 1. Capacity of government agencies and NGOs enhanced for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods at different levels.</li> </ul>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Forestry Governance:</b> Promoting better governance in community forests, leasehold forests and buffer zones through addressing second-generation issues (e.g. equity and governance). Results and Targets: 1. Model statutes developed for community forest users groups to address equity and governance issues are developed and replicated in other parts of Nepal. 2. Selected components of Gender and Social Equity Strategy developed by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation are implemented</li> </ul>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Green Agricultural Legislation &amp; Policies:</b> Facilitating greening of agricultural legislation (e.g. farmers' rights) and periodic plans and policies (e.g. agricultural subsidy, pesticides, and certification). Results and Targets: 1. Environmental friendly agricultural policies developed and piloted in two districts.</li> </ul>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Multilateral Environmental Agreements:</b> Influencing the development and implementation of selected multilateral environmental agreements to which Nepal is a party. Results and Targets: 1. Implementation status of at least 3 selected MEAs (e.g. CBD, World Heritage, Ramsar Convention) improved. 2. Collaborative Management Plan for at least one Ramsar site developed and implemented.</li> </ul>										

Ecosystem Management									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Landscape Management:</b> Promoting the conservation of biological and cultural diversity in inhabited landscapes and linking protected areas to larger conservation zones.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least two mountain landscape areas effectively and equitably managed to link important PA systems.</li> <li>Updated information of IUCN Red list (of endangered species) incorporated in Nepal Conservation policies and plans.</li> <li>Biodiversity survey findings of Far and Mid-Western Mountain corridors incorporated into Nepal Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan</li> </ol>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Trans-boundary Management:</b> Supporting trans-boundary cooperation through sharing of experiences and transfer of technologies for species and habitat conservation.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional level (SAARC) cooperation mechanisms to manage Invasive Alien Species operationalized and institutionalized.</li> <li>Conservation protocols / legal arrangements to prevent and control illegal wildlife trade initiated by Nepal and neighbouring countries.</li> </ol>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MAP/NTFP Management:</b> Developing in-situ and ex-situ conservation and promoting value addition and marketing of selected MAPs / NTFPs.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equitable access to and benefit for disadvantaged groups incorporated within national, Sub-national and district level MAPs and NTFPs management and marketing practices</li> </ol>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Water &amp; Wetlands Management:</b> Promoting conservation of selected wetlands and aquatic species and habitats and of wetlands related traditions and cultures.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetland bio-diversity conservation values integrated into national policy and planning framework.</li> <li>Strengthened national institutional, technical and economic capacity and awareness for wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.</li> <li>National wetland inventory updated</li> <li>Enhanced collaborative management of wetlands resources in Koshi Tappu and Ghodaghodi for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.</li> <li>E-flows and PES application mechanism within IWRM frame established for Nepal.</li> </ol>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pro-poor environment policies:</b> Pro-poor issues are well integrated into national/local environment and conservation sector policies.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding on linkages between rural poverty and environment are incorporated into national and sub-national environmental policies.</li> </ol>									

Environmental Economics									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Trade and Environment:</b> Facilitating incorporation of environmental consideration into national and international trade negotiations and agreements.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental implications are taken into consideration while implementing free trade agreements and treaties [bilateral, regional (SAFTA) &amp; multilateral (WTO)] (issues: pollution, over use of forest products, deforestation, invasive alien species, agro-biodiversity loss, GMO, Traditional Knowledge).</li> <li>Environmental considerations are well incorporated while planning and designing national trade policies as well as special economic zones.</li> </ol>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Business and Biodiversity:</b> Facilitating synergies between the business agenda and biodiversity conservation to increase conservation incentives for businesses and local communities.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 2 leading Corporate Houses adopted corporate social responsibility.</li> <li>Multi-stakeholders dialogue (private and NGOs) for business and biodiversity institutionalized.</li> </ol>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conservation Finance:</b> Identifying and promoting efficient and equitable economic means for financing environmental conservation.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payment for Environmental Services (PES) developed, and implemented in selected watersheds.</li> <li>Innovative conservation financing policies compatible with economic incentives of resources users are adopted into the national/local conservation and PA programs.</li> </ol>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Economic Valuation:</b> Studying and promoting awareness of the economic value of environmental and ecological wealth and functions.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on multifunctional uses (values) of selected watershed sites is available for national/regional policy makers and project planners.</li> <li>Environmental economic valuation framework incorporated into national PES and related environmental and conservation financing policies.</li> </ol>									

	1.		2.		3.		4.		5.	
	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2
<b>Climate Change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Vulnerability &amp; Adaptation:</b> Studying and understanding communities' vulnerability to climate change and facilitating adaptation to potential climatic risks.  Results and Targets:  1. Community adaptation strategy to climate change, demonstrated in 3 sites, representing 3 ecological zones.  2. Innovative NRM approaches, which minimize the climate change impact on livelihoods and security, are incorporated in national plan and policies.  3. National capacity on the adaptation to climate change enhanced.</li> </ul>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Impact Assessments:</b> Contributing to the understanding of vulnerability of society and biodiversity, especially agro-biodiversity, forests, water and wetlands to climate change.  Results and Targets:  1. Report (Knowledge) on vulnerability to climate change and community adaptation prepared for 3 ecological zones.</li> </ul>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Alternative Rural Energy:</b> Promoting alternative rural energy to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and to mitigate threats to biodiversity.  Results and Targets:  1. Bio-fuel demonstration project in one site set up.  2. Clean energy mechanisms demonstrated in one village in each project sites</li> </ul>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Carbon Sequestration:</b> Studying the potentiality and facilitating the use of carbon sequestration funds to mitigate climate change and ensure conservation incentives for rural people.  Results and Targets:  1. National negotiation capacity on CDM mechanisms enhanced.</li> </ul>										

Conservation Learning	1.		2.		3.		4.		5.	
	1. 1	1. 2	2. 1	2. 2	3. 1	3. 2	4. 1	4. 2	5. 1	5. 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Strategic Planning:</b> Facilitating participatory strategic planning processes and platforms for projects, programs, strategies and policies.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic priorities of community, country, regional and global level are reflected in programs and projects.</li> </ol>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Monitoring and Evaluation:</b> Refining and promoting existing and developing new participatory monitoring and evaluation systems for program, project and biodiversity.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GPSE indicators integrated into planning, monitoring and evaluation systems at national and regional level.</li> <li>Indicators for monitoring ecosystem health developed and adapted in IUCN Nepal projects.</li> </ol>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Action Learning:</b> Facilitating multidisciplinary action learning processes and studies to encourage innovation and effective links between knowledge, practice and policy.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NTFPs and MAPs sustainable management models (developed by IUCN Nepal) replicated in other parts of the country.</li> <li>Tools and management practices for improving ecosystem goods and services are adopted by other stakeholders in Churia area.</li> <li>Improved information on participatory management and innovative conservation financing mechanisms shared at regional and global level.</li> </ol>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Communication:</b> Supporting communication, networking and dissemination of learning and trends using alternative and new information and communication technologies.</li> </ul> <p>Results and Targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge and experience shared within and outside IUCN through web, publications and other platforms.</li> </ol>										

Founded in 1948, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) brings together states, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organisations in a unique world partnership: over 1000 members across some 180 countries. IUCN builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

As a union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN officially launched the Nepal Country Office on 23 February 1995 with the Ministry of Finance of Nepal. IUCN Nepal has been developing partnerships with various government line agencies as well as non-governmental organisations to carry forward its activities to conserve Nepal's biodiversity for improved and secure livelihoods.

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